REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-8 are pending in the present application. Claim 5 has been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shen (U.S. Patent 3,891,738) in view of Ronden et al. (U.S. Patent 5,981,631, herein "Ronden").

The abstract has been amended for clarification.

Amended Claim 5 finds support in the specification and drawings as originally filed, for example, at page 19, line 10 to, page 20, line 16 and Figures 4, 5, 6a-c and 7. No new matter is added thereby.

Claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shen and Ronden. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 5 is directed to a method of making a particle board that includes *inter alia* forming a semi-finished board product. The forming step includes sequentially performing of steps of providing a first plastic sheet, forming a first face layer on the first plastic sheet by dispersing a face layer material mixture on the first plastic sheet and leveling the dispersed face layer material mixture, forming a core layer on the first face layer by dispersing a core layer material mixture on the first face layer and leveling the dispersed core layer material mixture, forming a second face layer on the core layer by dispersing the face layer material mixture on the core layer and leveling the dispersed face layer material mixture and putting a second plastic sheet on the second face layer, and pressurizing the semi-finished board product with heating to melt and cause the first and second plastic sheets and resin particles to permeate and fill voids between adjacent wooden materials.

On the contrary, Shen discloses a three-layer board made from face layers of fine splinters with 8 percent resin content and a core layer of coarse splinters with 6 percent resin content. However, Shen does not disclose a particular process used to form the three-layer board. Specifically, Shen does not disclose the step of forming a semi-finished board product as recited in amended Claim 5. In addition, Shen discloses the particleboard mat 5 that is preferably pre-pressed and contained by two screens 25 for ease of handling (see column 2, lines 65-67). However, Shen does not disclose that pressurizing the three-layer board such that two screens 25 permeate and fill voids between the splinters.

Further, Ronden discloses a process for producing composite material formed from an organic filler, a thermoplastic polymer and a coupling agent (see column 5, lines 23-27). Ronden further discloses the first mixing step to mix the organic filler with the coupling agent to produce a wetted filler and the second mixing step to mix the thermoplastic polymer with the wetted filler to produce the composite material (see column 14, lines 34-44). Ronden also discloses that the thermoplastic polymer and wetted filler are heated during the second mixing step to a temperature of greater than or equal to the melt temperature of the thermoplastic polymer and less than the char temperature of the organic filler so that the thermoplastic polymer reaches a fluxed stated condition (homogeneously blended) (see column 15, lines 20-31). However, Ronden also does not disclose the step of forming a semi-finished board product as recited in amended Claim 5.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 5 and each of the claims depending thereform define over the cited art.

In addition, because neither Shen nor Ronden discloses the step of forming a semi-finished board product as recited in amended Claim 5, even the combined teachings of these cited references would not in any way render the method as recited in amended Claim 5 obvious.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the particle board with superior resistance to water is manufactured using the method as recited in Claim 5 because the thermoplastic particles are melted after forming the semi-finished board product.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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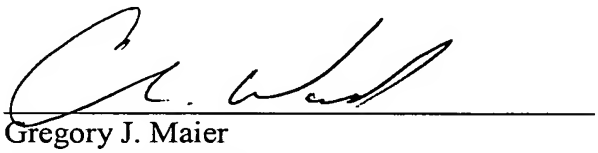
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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